



**MINUTES OF FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2022
AT 7:45PM AT THE RUFUS CENTRE & VIA VIRTUAL ACCESS**

Present

Cllr A Snape (Chairman)
Cllr J Dann
Cllr A Lutley
Cllr J Roberts
Cllr I Blazeby
Cllr G Mackey
Cllr D Toinko
Cllr P Earles
Cllr K Badham
Cllr C Thompson
Cllr J Gleave
Cllr R Shaw
Cllr H Hodges

Cllr C Gomm & Cllr N Bunyan – Central Beds Ward Members

Also present:

Rob McGregor – Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Susan Eldred – Community Services Manager
Stephanie Stanley – Corporate Services Manager (via virtual access)
Stacie Lockey – Environmental Services Manager (via virtual access)

5190. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillor Dodds (unwell) and Councillors Platt and Chacko (family commitments).

5192. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – None.

5193. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that this meeting could be challenging with the acoustics and asked Members to use the handheld microphones.

The Chairman thanked former Councillor, Maureen Williams, for her long service to the Council. Former Councillor Williams had resigned for personal reasons but had over time, been involved in many Council activities, in particular community events.

The Chairman congratulated the staff team for the delivery of their Christmas programme of events. He also thanked Councillors Mackey, Roberts and Shaw for their efforts being Father Christmas at the events.

The next event set to fundraise for the Town Mayor's charities was 'Murder in the Chamber' and would take place on 19th March. Councillor Badham and his drama colleagues would be providing the entertainment. Members were advised that they should have received their invitation to the event. Sixty-five tickets were sold for the afternoon session already.

The Chairman advised that he had attended the following events:

- Leighton Linlade meal
- FTC older person's Christmas Meal
- NALC LGBT+ networking meeting

The Chairman thanked Councillor Blazeby for his assistance with the budget process, the Chairman's report, and the video preparation.

Members were informed that the Chairman had decided to present the Council with a gift which was an aerial printed photograph of Flitwick in 1931. It was on display in the café and the Chairman mentioned the number of positive comments about it on social media. Councillor Blazeby thanked the Chairman for this gift and advised that he remembered the Flitwick memorabilia being part of the original agreement for the café décor. He asked for Officers to look through the photo archives for more aerial shots and add these to the café walls. Councillor Badham mentioned that photos from the community calendar could also be transferred into the café and used around the building. Members requested for this to be added to the next Business Committee agenda.

Action: Corporate Services Manager

5194. REPORTS FROM WARD MEMBERS

Ward Members reported the following:

- CBC Budget – the consultation had concluded. The organisation was looking at an almost 2% increase.
- Lamp columns – it was disappointing that more lights were out than admitted to which were CBC's responsibility. A couple came under the remit of UKPN. This issue was raised at CBC's meeting the previous week however Councillor Mackey asked others to let him know of any more lights out and he would investigate.
- The Ward Members had £1700 worth of funding remaining which needed to be spent before the end of this financial year. He suggested a match funding option to provide seating in front of Barclays.
- The Chancellor had announced more support to the hospitality and culture industries. There was £5.3m at CBC. Councillor Mackey had sought advice on this. It was £6k per business and £400k from the ARG grant.
- Councillor Gomm had attended a meeting with the Project Manager for the interchange scheme. The completion date was March 2023. He had asked for the team to remove the yellow sign positioned prior to the roundabout which gave the impression of finishing the project in the summer. Engagement with shop owners had taken place. These meetings would be happening monthly, and it was suggested for FTC to send a representative along. The Project Manager had been requested to liaise with Network Rail regarding step free access.

Questions

Councillor Bunyan asked for an update on the Joint Committee. The Town Clerk advised on his recent emails with a CBC Officer, but no responses had been received to date. The Chairman commented that this was frustrating, and he asked for the Ward Members to intervene.

Councillor Thompson referred to discussions at Community Services about the Queen's Green Canopy and thanked Ward Members for their support. She advised that the team were having problems with CBC in relation to this, in that land in their ownership had been identified but FTC were waiting for answers. She asked for the Ward Members to assist with this. Councillor Mackey advised on who to liaise with at CBC but to send the information to Ward Members.

Councillor Shaw referred to the press release about CBC towns benefitting from tree planting however Flitwick did not feature. He asked if the remaining Ward Members funding mentioned earlier could go towards this. Councillor Thompson informed the Council that FTC's application had not yet been submitted however the guidelines did not allow for individual giveaways.

Councillor Toinko asked about air filters and associated products for schools to assist in keeping pupils and teachers safe. He asked how much money had been given and for information about the CBC plan for this. Councillor Badham added that it would be useful for CBC to include information about mitigation for Covid in the weekly updates.

Councillor Badham asked about the outstanding debt from the Mid Beds Conservative Party for use of a room at the Rufus Centre, he wondered if the Ward Members had contacted the Treasurer. Councillor Bunyan agreed to take this on.

Councillor Gleave mentioned that residents had been in contact with him about traffic counts on Steppingley Road during October Half Term as people had wondered why they were happening. Councillor Mackey advised that the most recent counts had been in preparation for the extra care facility and results would be available on the planning portal. Councillor Blazeby asked if this could also be part of the crematorium application and Councillor Mackey stated this might be possible however he had not received formal notification of this.

5195. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of public present.

5196. INVITED SPEAKER

There was no invited speaker.

5197. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Councillor Badham questioned the presentation of the Planning Minutes for 8th December as he did not deem them to be accurate. He had concerns regarding the legality of the Exempt section and no vote had been taken. He added that content was not minuted and there was an inaccurate recording of the Chairman's announcements, as well as there being no reasons for apologies. He requested for the Planning Committee to look at this. Members were advised that these minutes could be put back on the next meeting's agenda.

Action ESM

Councillor Blazeby commented that he had watched the Planning video and asked for the Committee to reconsider the approval of the minutes and for the minutes to be re-written.

5198. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held, on **Tuesday 16th November 2021**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members received and approved as a true record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th November 2021 as a true record with the following amendments to minute number 5178e – Lightshow Barclays Bank:

Insert additional information regarding the extended discussion on Health & Safety that took place which related to the Council having a full understanding of what was required for the Barclays Bank building now that they were the owners. There was a particular discussion about the roof repairs where Members requested for a full review of this to be carried out before considering applications of this nature. A Member wanted it minuted that the Council had a duty of care to others to ensure this was appropriately actioned. A Member referenced the fact that the purchase had been worked on from a commercial basis without tenants being approached for community events. The Council needed to consider the impact of these applications on the building's tenants.

The Chairman commented that the Council had not been made aware that the Lightshow applicant was a professional and this could have impacted the decision.

- b. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Town Council Meeting held, on **Tuesday 7th December 2021**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members received and adopted as a true record the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th December 2021.

- c. For Members to receive and adopt the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Town Council Meeting held, on **Wednesday 22nd December 2021**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members received and adopted as a true record the minutes of the Extra Ordinary Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd December 2021.

- d. For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Planning Services Committee Meeting, held on **Wednesday 18th November 2021**, this meeting was held at The Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members noted that the Council has endorsed the Planning Committee's view to object to the crematorium application at the Extra Ordinary Council meeting on 7th December 2021 and therefore consideration is only required for minute number 2924 - To consider major development at Marston Mortaine.

Members noted the resolutions of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2021.

- d. For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Community Services Committee Meeting, held on **Tuesday 7th December 2021**, this meeting was held at The Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members noted the resolutions of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7th December 2021. Councillor Badham commented that the Committee were required to recommend the budget and reminded others that apologies given required a reason to be stated.

- e. For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Business Services Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 14th December 2021**, this meeting was held at The Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members noted the resolutions and recommendations of the Business Services Committee Meeting held on Thursday 14th December.

- f. For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Personnel Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 9th December 2021**, this meeting was held at The Rufus Centre and via virtual access. (To be moved to exempt)

Members noted the resolutions of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on Thursday 9th December 2021.

- g. For Members to receive and consider **resolutions and recommendations** of the Corporate Services Committee Meeting, held at The Rufus Centre and on **Tuesday 21st December 2021**, this meeting is held via virtual access.

Members noted the resolutions of the Corporate Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21st December 2021.

- h. For Members to receive and approve **resolutions and recommendations** of the Community Services Committee Meeting, held at The Rufus Centre and on **Tuesday 4th January 2022**, this meeting is held via virtual access.

Mr C Norris entered the meeting at this time.

Members noted the resolutions and recommendations of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4th January 2022. As this meeting was held via virtual access, Members were required to vote on the decisions made at this meeting and it was **resolved** to approve the recommendations circulated.

Officers were asked to check the minute numbers for this document.

- i. For Members to receive and approve **resolutions and recommendations** of the Planning Services Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 6th January 2022**, this meeting is held at The Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members noted the resolutions and recommendations of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Thursday 6th January 2022 and it was **resolved** to approve the decisions circulated.

- j. For Members To receive and approve **resolutions and recommendations** of the Personnel Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 6th January** and **Thursday 13th January 2022**. (To be moved to exempt).

Members noted the resolutions and recommendations of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on Thursday 6th January and Thursday 13th January 2022 and it was resolved to approve the decisions circulated.

- l.** For Members to receive and approve **resolutions and recommendations** of the Business Services Committee Meeting, held on **Thursday 13th January 2022**, this meeting was held at The Rufus Centre and via virtual access.

Members noted the resolutions and recommendations of the Business Services Committee Meeting held on Thursday 13th January 2022 and it was **resolved** to approve the decisions circulated.

- m.** Members are asked to note the Planning Committee decisions from 18th November, 8th December and 6th January.

Members noted the Planning Committee decisions from 18th November, 8th December and 6th January.

5199. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Dann referred to the Council Minutes from 7th December 2021 and asked for an update on the resolution made to fund up to £5k on a Planning Consultant regarding the CBC crematorium applications. He added that subsequent decisions had taken place following the meeting and it had been suggested that the Council would not get much for its money. The ESM reported that a Planning Consultant had been instructed following the decision made however progress had been delayed since CBC's Development Management Committee had been delayed. The Consultant would do a portal report and put a case together. It was agreed for the ESM to circulate an email updating Members on this as the sound quality was poor for this section of the meeting.

Action: ESM

5200. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a Proposed Budget 2022-23

- i) Members were asked to note the Chairman's report on the proposed budget for 2022-23.

The Chairman thanked Officers for completing their review of revenue spending which was a complete process this year and had triggered interesting discussions. The Council were aware of current spending which led to a good position and allowed for an element of value engineering. It meant that any precept increase was accurate. He went on to explain that a Chairman's report had been drafted based on approving the Chairman's group and Business Services' recommendation for the precept as he wanted the Council to see what was being published first. The Chairman explained that should the Council decide on a different precept option, then alterations to the report could be made. He mentioned that a video had been created and he planned to show this shortly to all Members.

Councillor Blazeby thanked Officers for putting the information together but asked for the work on this to be done more in advance next time so that subsequent work/meeting discussions were not done at the last minute.

The Chairman presented the following on the precept options circulated:

- Options 1, 2 and 3 had been prepared by the Accountant prior to the Chairman's meeting
- At the Chairman's meeting and Business Services, lengthy discussions were held on any precept rise put onto residents. He mentioned that lots of households faced uncertain outcomes.

- The Chairman's group discussed the additional staff costs which included the cost of living being negotiated by the NJC Committee (accountant suggested to budget for a 3% increase here), an additional 1.25% was included to fund the social care levy through National Insurance contributions (CBC were exempt from this) and the 1% increase to the employer's contribution to the pension scheme. All costs had been imposed on the Council.
- This led to a 4th option of a precept increase of 3.67% to cover the additional staff costs which was clear to explain and justify to residents.
- The Chairman was confident that with other increases, these could be managed within other set budgets.
- The Chairman mentioned the increasing energy costs and explained that the Council was in a fixed contract for the next financial year. He added that solar array produced a significant amount of electricity and an update on this would be circulated for Business Services.

Action: Corporate Services Manager

The video explaining the suggested precept increase was played on the screen for everybody present (in person and remotely) to view. The Chairman mentioned that this video could be recorded again if Members wanted to alter the precept recommendation from Business Services.

- ii) Members are asked to consider the proposed budget for 2022-23 that has been circulated.

Councillor Gleave referred to the assumption presented that the Rufus Centre would turn a profit next year and asked how confident the Council were to achieve this considering the challenges currently being faced with renting office space and meeting rooms. The Chairman advised that the accountant was predicting a £10k profit overall which would be a good outcome. The catering side was doing exceptionally well, and it was about building confidence in the community for the more traditional business on events and conferencing. The Officers had secured a tenant for one of the vacant offices and were in discussions with another business regarding a second.

Councillor Blazeby commented that the budget notes looked at additional ways to mitigate potential losses or to add profitability by changing internal operations and exercising additional opportunities for use of the building.

The Chairman advised that the forecasted figures were challenged with the accountant. A sum (£50k) had been used from General Reserves this year for the purchase of the Barclays Bank building and for the Council to still have £38k in reserves was a good position. Retaining 6 months net expenditure was a good idea and the Council was £196k above this level.

Councillor Shaw questioned the percentage suggested for the precept as he felt this was a 'bad' number considering a 0% rise last year. The Chairman responded that last year the Council could rely on the income from the vaccine hub and there was also a public sector pay freeze at the time. The advice given regarding the additional staff costs could lead to the Council managing a decline in finance if the precept was not increased now. Members accepted that any rise would not be welcomed by the public however the Chairman believed this suggestion would be clear and easy to provide justification since these factors were outside the Council's control. He added that he would agree with Councillor Shaw if the suggestion related to adding to the Rolling Capital Fund.

Councillor Earles thought it would be beneficial for the video to explain why the Council had not raised the precept last year. The Chairman explained that the video could not be too long, but he did make reference to the fact that the Council

did not raise the precept last year to assist residents in getting through the pandemic. Councillor Blazeby added that the suggested rise was below inflation increases and Councillor Badham mentioned that other bills were rising by much more. Members commented that if the precept was not increased this year, then there would be larger increases to consider for the future. The Chairman had spoken with other Councils who were going to raise their precept by more than what was suggested for Flitwick. The staff team would be including forecasts in financial reporting.

Councillor Mackey thought it was an achievement to be in a position where the precept would only need to raise by the suggested amount considering the pressures and that services could remain at the same level for the community.

Councillor Hodges thanked the Officers and Chairmen for their efforts with the proposed budget as he understood this was difficult work.

It was **resolved** to progress with Option 4 presented, which would be a Precept rise of 3.67% at £31,321 limited to cover externally imposed increases to staff costs (Employer's National Insurance Contributions (UK Government Health & Social Care Levy), National Pay Award and Employers Pension Contribution increase).

k. Rolling Capital Fund (RCF)

i) Members noted the RCF Summary circulated.

ii) Members were asked to approve the following RCF application:

Community Services – contribution of **£600** for Hub Car Park hoop barriers. Councillor Thompson clarified that this expenditure was for a partial funding as the Village Hall Management Committee were contributing.

It was **resolved** to contribute £600 towards the Hub Car Park hoop barriers from the RCF.

iii) Members were asked to consider an amendment to the Financial Regulations to allow Officers a 5% or 10% margin on RCF project overspends following committed budgets approved by the Council. Officers would revert to Council for approval of funds that exceed overspends above the percentage agreed.

The Chairman explained the difference between expenditure for the revenue budget in comparison to capital spending. He stated that within other Councils, Officers were permitted to exceed the committed funding for projects within the RCF between 5-10% to allow for discretion and mitigate delays or the need to call additional meetings.

It was **resolved** to accept overspends of no more than 5% for RCF projects due to financial constraints and past overspends.

c. Interim Internal Audit for the year ended 31 March 2022

Members considered the first Interim Audit Report for year-end 31st March 2022. It was noted that this was a positive report and thanked Officers for their work.

It was resolved to accept the Interim Internal Audit report for the year ended 31st March 2022.

d. Environmental Policy & Action Plan

It was noted that the Action Plan had not been included in the paperwork circulated. Members were keen for the audit to happen as soon as possible as this had been first discussed in July 2021. This work had been identified as a major priority for the Council via two Committees.

It was **resolved** to accept the Environmental Policy as circulated.

It was **resolved** to instruct Officers to obtain three quotes for an independent Environmental Audit.

e. Self Defence Course

Members received a report from the Community Services Manager and considered the recommendations within the report.

A Member asked why this proposal had been presented to the Council instead of the Community Services Committee. The Town Clerk advised that the Youth Panel, where this proposal had arisen from, reported to the Council. Councillor Thompson advised that some clarifications about this course had been discussed at Community Services however there was no delegated authority. It was explained that theoretically, the Youth Panel represented the full Council and should be viewed as a Youth Committee from the formal perspective. The Chairman asked for this to be discussed under the Scheme of Delegation item.

Members asked why the course would not take place at the Rufus Centre as these would be free of charge. The CSM was also asked if there was a need to put a limit on the number of attendees prior to advertising so that the Council could obtain data on the response. This was a relevant and topical issue.

The CSM advised that the Village Hall would be the preferred venue as the course was targeted at teenage girls and it would be unreasonable to think they would walk to the Rufus Centre in the dark. The young people had communicated a preference for a town centre venue as they knew the area. The numbers were capped as this was the amount the instructor could take on the course however if the demand was there, the CSM would look to run additional classes.

A Member asked how the instructor had been chosen and what their credentials were. The CSM advised that the instructor was a contact through past events and she had a list of their qualifications if Members requested to view them. The instructor had done similar work for the Police.

Members asked if any discount had been secured and were advised that the price included a big discount, which would be communicated via email.

Action: CSM

Councillor Badham mentioned there was a large need for this however some residents could struggle with the cost. He and Councillor Shaw offered to fund two spaces. Councillor Badham asked if there had been any thought given about a potential scheme to assist with those in the community who might struggle to afford the classes.

Councillor Thompson highlighted the leaflets and other work the Youth Panel had already suggested. The Chairman agreed and commented that it would be beneficial to gain more insight on what the Panel is working on. It was appreciated that a young person may not want to attend within a Council meeting forum.

Councillor Mackey asked about safeguarding and Members were advised that there was a consent form process via parents that would be followed. Councillor Mackey suggested

this project would be something he and other Ward Members would be in favour of supporting via the previously mentioned £1700 funding they had. He mentioned that this would need to go via the CBC approval process, and it would need to be actioned before 31st March.

It was **resolved** to accept the Officer's recommendation presented in the circulated report and ask the Community Services Manager to look at alternative funding options as identified by Councillor Mackey as part of Ward Members' funding. This was to provide a 6 week self-defence course free of charge.

f. Delivery Plan & Committee Priorities

The Town Clerk advised that this item would not be discussed following a conversation that occurred at Business Services the previous week which related to late papers.

g. Scheme of Delegation

Members were asked to carry out a review of the Town Council's Scheme of Delegations.

Councillor Blazeby commented the following points:

- Regarding Youth Panel reporting, the direction had been set via the Policy.
- As Chairman of Corporate, he had referred several items to Full Council for democracy reasons to entitle all Members to have a vote – these included the sale of Steppingley Road land, the development of a Corporate Strategy and the discussions relating to the surrender of the library office lease.
- The scheme worked based on the Chairmen understanding the benefits of referring matters back to Council.
- A review of the scheme was suggested via Corporate Services to investigate potential call-in processes whereby an independent person, e.g., the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, could call in a particular subject matter for the Council to consider. The responsibilities for the Committees could be looked at which could assist with clearing a lot of bureaucracy relating to the servicing of Committees. Councillor Mackey endorsed this and added that he thought all Members should be able to speak on any subject matter, attend exempt sections and vote. The Town Clerk advised that this would not be reflective of the Standing Orders and could lead to large Committees resembling a sitting Council.

Councillor Shaw stated that matters had been referred to the Council when required, such as the CBC crematorium application. He added that he did not understand why these matters were being discussed at this meeting as it related to personal disagreements. The Chairman advised that he would prefer not to do this without the Chairman of Planning present.

Councillor Earles stated that although the crematorium application went to Planning first, every Member could have attended this meeting and she mentioned that the Mayor should have come as it may have impacted how the Committee voted and felt.

Councillor Thompson mentioned the time commitment that Councillors put in and stated it was fundamental to send relevant matters back to Council. She gave the example of the Community Safety Plan to explain and said this decision made the document better. She advised that there were some inconsistencies in the scheme and would liaise with the Town Clerk on this separately.

Councillor Toinko explained that matters have previously waited for a Committee meeting date when there has been a Council meeting sooner, e.g. the response to Planning legislation for the Oxford/Cambs arc. The Planning Committee had decided not to respond as CBC were seen as the 'experts', which had not recognised the different interests CBC had as developers with a housing strategy.

The Chairman advised that it was the Town Clerk's responsibility to decide what goes on agendas and that Officers can be in difficult positions over Members' disagreements.

Councillor Mackey asked if 3 Members could write to the Town Clerk to call matters to Council.

It was **resolved** to review the Scheme of Delegations at Corporate Services with a view to recommending changes for the Council to consider. This would look at a possible call-in process and if there were opportunities to streamline elements of Committees to reduce administration for Officers servicing these Committees.

h. Rural Match Funding - Integrated Programme 2022 – 2023

Members received correspondence and application process for the Highways Improvement Scheme 2022 -2023. Members were asked to consider any schemes they may wish to put forward. Any proposed schemes will have to be match funded with a 50% contribution from the Town Council.

It was confirmed that the maximum funds would be £25k and the Council's contribution of funds would need to be from the RCF.

Councillor Gleave asked if the schemes needed to be delivered by CBC's contractors and if these schemes had to be delivered on highway's land. He also enquired if the EV charging points could be used as there was not any details relating to this in the papers. The Town Clerk advised that the EV charging was a separate matter within a CBC process. He added that these schemes take time and could include disabled access priorities. Councillor Blazeby mentioned looking at match funding if the schemes sat with identified Committee priorities. Councillor Thompson commented that the Barclays frontage was a Community Services priority and items could include planters/benches. The Chairman explained it needed to be highways improvements on CBC land. Members were advised that there were a number of matters on the area around the Barclays frontage that was on highways land that was not particularly safe for disabled access.

As the deadline for this was not until 8th April, it was agreed for each Committee to discuss this opportunity.

Action: SMT

i. Town Mayor Allowance Policy

Members were asked to consider and adopt the circulated Town Mayor's allowance policy.

There was currently not a policy in place relating to the Town Mayor's allowance. The Chairman commented that the current budget did not have enough funds for all the civic engagements he had wished to do and had suggested within the proposed budget to increase this to £4k. He added his view that the allowance should not be paid out quarterly (used as cash).

After discussion, it was agreed to refer to transport costs instead of mileage and for raffle prizes won to be donated to the Council for further raffles.

It was **resolved** to accept the policy circulated with a review date of every January and to include the minor amendments discussed relating to transport costs and raffle prizes.

5201. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There were no items for information.

5202. Public Open Session

Mr Norris, a member of the public, wished to speak to the Council regarding the Focus on Flitwick Facebook page, which had been set up by Councillor Mackey and was labelled relating to his Council duties to help achieve tasks in Flitwick. Mr Norris commented that he felt the page displayed bullying, harassment, and violence.

The Chairman asked if this matter was Council business. Mr Norris explained his opinion that the page was allowing him to carry out business. He added that his comments regarding Millennium Park are not replied to and that other people set upon others therefore he questioned why this was permitted as it constituted bullying.

The Chairman explained to Mr Norris that this matter was not Council business, and he could not allow this discussion to continue. He advised that if Mr Norris had a complaint regarding an individual Councillor, it was best to approach this person first and subsequently speak to the Monitoring Officer if he was unhappy with the response. The Chairman clarified that the Facebook page referred to was not owned by the Council. Councillor Mackey advised that he was happy for Mr Norris to contact him directly and pointed out the Council's official routes of contact.

5203. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

8g, 8k) Personnel Resolutions

13a) Youth Provision

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.